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Tax Relief For Connecticut!

After being approached by both First Selectmen in our district on the issue of property revaluation, I worked with my colleagues to pass legislation that allows municipalities that, under prior law, were required to re-value real property in the 2003, 2004, or 2005 assessment year, **to delay revaluation to the 2006 assessment year.** This will help save our towns' taxpayer money.

To ease the burden on our taxpayers, the budget we recently passed raises the property tax credit from **\$350 to \$500 for tax year 2005.**

All clothing and footwear costing less than \$300 will now be exempt during "Sales Tax Free Week," which will be from **Sunday August 15th through Saturday August 21st.** Plan your shopping accordingly!

State Capitol, Room 110
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Working Hard for You
Capitol: 860.240.8585
toll-free: 1-800-842-8267
email: ted.graziani@po.state.ct.us
www.ct.gov/hdo



57th District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TED GRAZIANI



Department of Agriculture Preserved "Keep It Growing"

One of the major accomplishments of the 2004 session was maintaining our Department of Agriculture. This agency is instrumental in sustaining our food supply, preserving working farmland and stimulating Connecticut's economy. Last year, the Agriculture agency



was eliminated and merged with the Department of Consumer Protection. I worked to overturn this shortsighted decision and am pleased to report that the Department of Agriculture has been restored. We were also able to secure \$2 million for the preservation of farmland which is vital to our towns.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TED GRAZIANI

Capitol News

Budget Brings More Dollars to East Windsor and Ellington

Dear Friends,



57TH DISTRICT
*East Windsor
Ellington*

The 2004 legislative session was unforgettable given the ongoing impeachment hearings. Despite the scandals that plagued our statehouse, **I was still able to focus on the needs of our district.** As the session came to a close, I was very proud of what the General Assembly accomplished, and I am happy with the results I am able to share with you.

Our state is on a path to economic recovery based upon the groundwork we laid last session. Fiscal year 2004 brought a surplus of over **\$200 million** that enabled us to restore cuts to crucial programs that we were forced to implement last year. **The 2005 budget is balanced, is under the state spending cap, does not impose new taxes, and increases funds for education by \$65 million.**

On the local level, I worked with the Speaker of the House to **restore funding for the Town of East Windsor's Birth to School Family Resource Center.** The center, which until now was in danger of losing state funding, provides services for the development of young children and families. I fought to restore funding for this valuable community resource and I will do all I can to ensure its continued success. I also worked to secure **state funds for improvements to the Connecticut Trolley Museum in East Windsor.** This project will not only preserve this historical site, but will help boost the town's economy by attracting more tourists.

East Windsor and Ellington received a significant amount in town aid that is a dramatic increase over what the Governor initially proposed. These grants will go toward improving education, our roads, and other local capital improvements.

It is an extreme honor and privilege to serve you as your State Representative and I will continue my efforts on your behalf in the future. Best wishes to you and your families for a safe and healthy summer!

Warmest Regards,



Seniors

Senior Housing

This legislative session, I brought to the forefront the issue of **providing quality housing for our senior residents in our district and the entire state.** This resulted in a heightened awareness that a shortage in senior housing in our state exists, and that it poses as a serious issue. The General Assembly's non-partisan Program Review and Investigations Committee will be conducting research on the issue of senior housing and will provide the legislature with a report that will offer ideas and solutions to this growing problem. I look forward to addressing this extremely important issue in the next legislative session.

ConnPACE & Medicaid

I also supported legislation which **repeals** the provision that allowed the state to recoup the value of prescription drug subsidies from a patient's estate after death. The bill further repealed the law that set an asset test and a controversial "reach back" provision within the ConnPACE program for the elderly. In addition, **co-payments on prescriptions and doctor visits for Medicaid beneficiaries were removed.**

AARP Hotline

The American Association for Retired Persons (**AARP**) now has an informational toll-free phone number in Connecticut. Call **1-866-295-7279** for an answer to any of your questions regarding senior issues.

Ethics

Strengthening Connecticut's Ethics Laws

In light of several alleged ethics violations, a major priority for the General Assembly was to pass legislation that tightens our ethics statutes. One of the major reform bills passed this session increases the statute of limitations for filing ethics violation complaints from three to five years. It also **raises the maximum civil penalty for ethics codes violations from \$2,000 to \$10,000.** In addition, the legislation addresses bid rigging by lengthening the time from 90 to 180 days for the state to bring an action to void a contract that was entered into in violation of the Code of Ethics.

*Questions ~ Concerns? Call
State Representative Ted Graziani at
1-800-842-8267.*



Veterans

Protecting Our Soldiers

After learning in early September 2003 that **one-third of our troops serving overseas and in Iraq were unsafe on the battlefield because they did not have access to the latest protective bullet-proof armor vests,** I organized a petition that was sent to the Connecticut delegation of the United States Congress. I, along with many of my colleagues in the General Assembly, Constitutional Officers, and concerned citizens, urged them to expedite the distribution of life-saving vests to those that remained unprotected. This petition sparked state and national media attention (contacted by *60 Minutes*).

As a result, the government dispatched the special vests to more soldiers in an effort that meant the difference between life and death for our brave servicemen. **We owe it to them that while they are risking their lives for us on the battlefield we are doing what we can to ensure their utmost safety.**

Soldiers', Sailors', and Marines' Fund

I, along with Gerry Dierman, Administrator for the Soldiers', Sailors', and Marines' Fund, and members of the Connecticut National Guard, spearheaded legislation that allows honorably discharged Connecticut National Guard members to participate in the Soldiers', Sailors' and Marines' Fund under the same terms as other eligible veterans by defining the National Guard as part of the U. S. military service. I was also instrumental in working with House Leadership in appropriating **\$200,000 for the Veterans' Home and Hospital.**

Economy

R&D Tax Credit

As co-chair of the Commerce Committee, I made it a priority to pass legislation making permanent the eligibility for research and development (R&D) tax credit refunds for companies that pay the alternative capital base corporation tax for a year when they report no income. This will help all types of businesses and will allow Connecticut to become a more business friendly state.



Rep. Ted Graziani with (from left to right) Bucky Wiltshire, Adjutant Commander of the Veterans' of Foreign War, Secretary of State Susan Bysciewicz, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, and Chuck Berry, Adjutant Commander of the American Legion, at a press conference announcing a petition to distribute life saving vests to our troops serving in Iraq.



*Please remember our men and women
who are serving our country.*

a t y o u r s e r v i c e

